



**Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council  
17 October 2023  
At Cullen Community and Residential Centre**

**Present**

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Stewart Wilson (Planning)

Less Tarr

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

Graham Smith (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

Ruth Liddicoat and Lucy Blake (for Vattenfall's Aultmore Windfarm proposal)

**Cullen and Deskford Community Council Annual General Meeting**

**1 Welcome and introductions**

The meeting opened at 19.00 and Colin Burch welcomed those present.

**2 Apologies**

Councillor Tracy Colyer

Jill Sowden (Community Development Officer, Three Kings Cullen Association)

**3 Minutes of AGM held on 18 October 2022**

Agreed as a true record of the meeting. Approved by Colin Burch, Seconded by Bruce Edelsten

**4 Chair's Report**

Colin Burch summarised the previous year.

**Membership changes**

Stewart Black and Ernest Kopp both resigned; Lyra and Stewart Wilson and Less Tarr became full members; Phil Lovegrove moved outwith the catchment area but continued as an Associate member.

**CDCC Funding**

The per-capita funding is insufficient to fully fund CDCC commitments where the overheads, legitimate out-of-pocket expenses exceed the funds available.

**Working with the local community projects, including:**

Cullen Town Flowers, Logie Playpark revamp, funding applications e.g., Cullen Connected newsletter, Community lunches, cost of living concerns for some in our area, local resilience planning.

Meetings with representatives from Vattenfall about the proposed Aultmore windfarm.

Close working with TKCA (Cullen Community and Residential Centre) on Resilience Planning, support for funding applications, etc.

CDCC thanks the many and varied voluntary groups within the Cullen and Deskford area who provide a multitude of services and initiatives.

**5 Confirmation of office bearers**



The following were confirmed:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Stewart Wilson (Planning)

6 Appointment of auditors

Phil Lovegrove reported an auditor had been appointed.

7 Confirmation of dates for 2023/24

It was agreed that meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month except July, where there is no formal meeting, and December, where the meeting is moved to the 2nd week. Also, meetings are usually held in Cullen except the April and November ones which are held in Deskford.

8 Any other AGM business

There was none.

9 Close of AGM

The meeting closed at 19.12 Hrs

## Regular Meeting of Cullen and Deskford Community Council

(Note: Jill Sowden provided a Three Kings Cullen Association (3KA) i.e. Cullen Community and Residential Centre, update which is appended to these minutes)

### 1. Outside Agencies Reports

#### a. Police Scotland

The Police Scotland report for September was received at the beginning of October.

- #### b. Graham Smith reported that, recently things had been fairly quiet; the service will be starting fire safety advice; two new recruits have finished training at Portlethen, which brings to crew total up to 8; there are another two to go through the training which would bring the crew up to ten, just short of the ideal crew of twelve. The recruitment campaign will be continuing – recruits have to be able to get to the station within eight minutes of a call-out which limits the catchment area to within Cullen, Portnockie, Deskford and part way to Portsoy. The fire station is taking part in Cullen Primary School's scarecrow competition.

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 19 September 2023

- #### a. Approved as a true record of the meeting by Lyra Wilson, seconded by Stewart Wilson

#### b. Corrections

None

#### c. Matters arising not on agenda

None

### 3. Guest Speakers

Ruth Liddicoat and Lucy Blake, representing Vattenfall, provided an update on Vattenfall's proposed windfarm at Aultmore.

- Vattenfall intend submitting the planning application to the Scottish Government by the end of 2023.
- Once the planning application has been validated by the Scottish Government and is available on their web site, Vattenfall will write to Moray Councillors, Community Councils etc., with the details and put these details on the Vattenfall web site, at which point, Moray Council, Community Councils and the public, can respond.
- Public consultation exhibitions have been held in Clochan, Buckie, Newmills and Cullen, which were attended by 130 people. Feedback to the exhibitions had been requested in writing, on-line, email, paper etc.
- A pilot community benefit workshop was held in Portessie on 1 September 2023 which received positive feedback. The draft copy of the workshop report contains photographs of Cullen and Deskford Community Councillors and approval for the use of images is required – by completing 'Model Permission' forms!
- A full hard copy of the planning submission and associated documentation will be available, and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to place this in Cullen Library.
- There have been queries as to why this on-shore wind farm is being pursued in favour of an off-shore wind farm – mostly because of the time, and therefore cost, taken to establish an off-shore wind farm compared to an on-shore one.

4. Chair's report

Subsumed within the text below.

5. Treasurer's report

Phil Lovegrove reported: The admin account has £372.88. Expenditure for this month has been £30 for hall use for September, £35.85 for travel expenses, £3.70 for postage, £50 for CDCC mobile phone and £70.80 for wreaths.

The Fundraising account has £17740.21. Expenditure this month has been £26.70 for cards and calendar, and £415.63 for printing of Cullen Connected.

Ring fenced amounts are:

- £4000 for playpark (Note – invoice has now been paid)
- £1500 for ebus shelter
- £8926.61 SSE resilience
- £624.67 TSi for Cullen Connected

Which leaves £2688.93 for general use.

6. Secretary's Report

Bruce Edelsten reported: during the past month the following were posted on Facebook:

- Details about bids from Cullen to the Just Participatory Budgeting Fund, encouraging voting for Cullen projects,
- The recent CullenConnected,
- Information from Amey about upcoming roadworks – particularly on the A96.

7. Councillor's Reports

Councillor Gatt reported

Recent events attended:

27 Sep – Full Council meeting

28 & 29 Sep 2023 – COSLA Conference and Exhibition with Council Leader, Opposition Leader and Chief Executive.

4 Oct – Special Full Council meeting.

10 Oct – Local Development Plan Workshop.

10 Oct – Site visit to road works on A95 at Meikle Cantly.

12 Oct – Political budget meeting.

16 Oct – Political budget meeting.

Ongoing Topics

There have been four meetings between the Corporate Management Team (CMT), Heads of Service and representatives from all political groups and independent councillors regarding the forthcoming budget for 2024/25 and beyond, during which the stark choices facing Moray Council were plainly set out. There is a £16 million budget gap that has to be filled with either cuts, increased charges, increased council tax or a mixture of all of the above.

[MC 20221207 Short to Medium Term Financial Plan](#)

Budget Overview (cmis.uk.com)

MC 20230927 Short to Medium Term Financial Strategy Appendix 2 (cmis.uk.com)

Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)

#### Some Forthcoming Events

Wed 18 Oct – Police, Hate Crime awareness week, mobile trailer visiting various locations in the North East to highlight awareness and support available.

Thu 19 Oct – Planning and Regulatory Services Committee, Site visits.

Tue 24 Oct – Planning and Regulatory Services Committee.

Wed 25 Oct – Special Moray Council meeting.

#### Online Reporting Forms / Call Centre.

Use of the Moray Council Online Reporting Forms or Call Centre is encouraged to speed up the reporting of problems and save the Council money. Web link below.

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_88163.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_88163.html)

Councillor Coull added details of the various committees being attended.

#### 8. Planning Officer's Report

23/01700/APP | Retrospective consent for change of apartment to short term holiday let at 18 Castle Terrace Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SD.

Dinosaur – The applicant had applied for review of the planning decision and a Notice of Review (NOR) has been served on the Moray Local Review Body (MLRB). The MLRB now have a statutory responsibility to review the original decision. The NOR and associated documents can be viewed at [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_65978.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_65978.html)

#### 9. Current Business

##### a. Resilience Planning

Colin Burch reported that a Scoping meeting was held on Friday 6 October. Attendees were Ross Ferguson, Jill Sowden, Stewart Wilson, and Colin Burch. Stewart Wilson reported that the Bowling and Tennis Club's Hall had a capacity of 250 and emergency usage is currently reserved for Wakefield in case they had to decant. The Church of Scotland's Hall Church would also be available in case the Community Centre, which would be the major hub, was full. There has been a suggestion that, in the event of a major incident, the emergency services could set up a control centre at the Bowling and Tennis Club.

There is a proposal to bring together relevant parties via a series of meetings. It was felt that those meeting would have a targeted invitation list: emergency services, businesses, and the public, as there will be different aspects needing addressed and a targeted audience would be more likely to attend specific aspects, rather than a generic 'catch all' meeting.

Community funding of a major incident could cause post-incident issues as there is no mechanism for replenishing any reserve funds.

Funding is in place for solar panels and battery storage at the community centre and, once that system has been installed, the centre should be able to operate for 24hours 'off grid'.

##### b. Community Lunches

Lyra Wilson reported that lunches are being well attended, though the numbers at the most recent one were down a bit. From November the lunches will be served every two weeks until the New Year. There has been a call out for others to become qualified to do

food duties. Without others being 'qualified' to prepare food, then the frequency cannot be increased further. The group would like to increase the frequency to weekly, but this would be too much of a commitment for the current pool of volunteers.

c. Logie Park Play Area

Outstanding items:

- Siting a bench - one at community centre – could be tarted up by men's shed
- Redoing pedestrian entrance with wheelchair access
- Paying out the funds (being dealt with)

Colin Burch will be meeting with Moray Council representatives on Wednesday 18 October

d. E-bus shelter

No contact from Yvonne Joss and the Chair hasn't chased this up. If he gets the opportunity, will do so before the next CDCC meeting.

e. CullenConnected

September /Autumn edition has been distributed.

Less Tarr has offered to typeset future editions. A thank you to all those who helped put this together and distribute. Also, a thanks to those street facing businesses who assist in distributing. A particular thank you to Somerset Francis who has done a particularly good job with typesetting from Edition 2. CDCC wishes all the best to him in his new life.

f. Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes

CDCC received the minutes of a meeting held on the 5th October 2023 which had been the first formal meeting since June 2023.

g. Mercat Cross

No further action.

h. Network bandwidth at Cullen Primary School

Tracy Colyer forwarded an email from Moray Council Head of IT. Agreed to revisit when Councillor Colyer is next present.

i. "20s Plenty" signs

Colin Burch will ensure they are forwarded to Less Tarr.

j. Scarecrow competition

CDCC will need to map to do a walkabout.

Secretary to contact Carene Hay

k. Motorhome stop over site at Port Long Road

<https://www.spanglefish.com/cullenmotorhomestopover/index.asp>

Booking opening soon! (see Jill Sowden's briefing below)

l. Accident blackspot – A98 / Seafield Rd coming into Cullen from the east

Colin Burch reported that Moray Council only records accidents when there is a reported injury and, therefore, only one recent accident has been recorded. However, the person repairing the dyke after the most recent accident said there has been five accidents during 2023, none in 2022 and three in 2021. Seafield Estates may have a record of repairs. Colin Burch to pursue.

Although it might be possible to replace the 40mph speed with a 30mph one, the speed limit would need to be monitored, perhaps by using an authorised speed gun – which requires training.

m. Path to Crannoch Woods

- a. The Secretary using his petrol strimmer with a rotating brushing disc to cut back some of the gorse. Lyra Stewart reported this had been successful.
- b. The Chair has looked out a backpack sprayer but there is little point in spraying at this time of year – to be revisited in the spring of 2024.

n. Ramp to beach

(Moray Council had passed on a request for a ramp to the beach)  
Colin Burch will be meeting with Moray Council to discuss ownership details.

o. Community Council funding

Colin Burch and Phil Lovegrove have been compiling data showing funding requirements if all commitments were observed and community councillors made all legitimate and justifiable claims for expenses incurred while conducting CDCC business. The data suggests this would exceed funding currently received from Moray Council. Debra Duke (Moray Council Community Council Liaison Officer) is canvassing information from other Moray Council Community Councils and had provided a spreadsheet showing the per-capita grant for each Moray Community Council and their expenditure. This will be on the next JCC agenda.

10. AOCB  
None

11. Dates for the calendar

Wednesday 25 October: Cullen Community Lunch at the Community centre  
Saturday 28 October: Moray Community Councils celebration event at Elgin library and Flag Event at Castle Hill  
Saturday 4 November: TKCA (Community Centre) Cullen Salutes event, Veterans Brunch  
Tuesday 8 November: Buckie Area Forum meeting, via Zoom  
Wednesday 8 November: Cullen Community lunch at the Community centre  
Thursday 9 November: Joint Community Council meeting, venue to be confirmed.  
Sunday 12 November: Remembrance Day which require attendees for Cullen and Deskford parades. (09.30 in Cullen and 12.30 in Deskford)

12. Dates of next meetings

21 November 2023 at Deskford Jubilee Hall (TBC)  
12 December 2023 at Cullen Fire Station

13. Meeting closed at 21.20

## CULLEN AND DESKFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Three Kings Cullen Association (3KA)  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE  
Jill Sowden, 17 OCTOBER 2023

### Cullen SALUTES

Forces Brunch being held on Saturday 4 November from 10.30am – 1.00pm for veterans, serving, reservists and their families. Musical entertainment by Cullen Men's Shed Band – they have been practising in the room next to me this afternoon and sounding good! A few local agencies invited with stands together with a couple of local veterans (by that I mean Aberdeenshire 😊) who people might recognise as being on the telly recently plus plenty of folk from the area! We have asked a couple of Typhoon pilots along and things are looking promising but it might change over the next couple of weeks so no guarantees.

I set up Aberdeenshire SALUTES (through the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership when I was Community Planning Officer there) so a large scale support project with over 60 different agencies including MoD on board. I am proposing a much scaled down version but with the same goals and outcomes for Cullen. Therefore, we will be launching Cullen SALUTES (Supporting and Linking Up to Every Service), an information and signposting point within the Centre and where armed services support agencies will be able to come and meet their clients, at the Brunch. Support will be offered through the Men's Shed and through activities within the Centre.

We will sound people out at the Brunch about future events, frequency etc. The Association will be laying wreaths at both Cullen and Deskford – **confirmation of times would be helpful if Cllr Gatt knows yet?**

### Motorhome Stopover

Barrier due to the fitted today. Then the barrier software needs to be linked to the booking system which then needs to be linked to the Stopover website. Keypad needs to be installed to access the chemical waste point, the code of which will be emailed to visitors prior to arrival (looking at practicalities of non-site visitors accessing the chemical waste for a fee). Email content being finalised by us and insurances and risk assessments being undertaken presently. Access road to site will be resurfaced by Seivwrights. Height restrictor barrier (set at 2.2m) will be positioned between the stones in the car park to prevent overnight parking by motorhomes, campervans etc.

We need to collate the registration plates of Fire Engines, Ambulances and Police vehicles as much as possible to input them into the barrier recognition software so the barrier will automatically lift when they approach.

**If SFRS and Police are at the meeting can they advise on how we can obtain their reg plates please?**

### Solar Panels and Battery Storage

Funding all in place for the solar panels on the Centre roof together with the battery storage to be fitted by 31 March 2024. This will allow for 24 hour power for the whole Centre including residential in the event of an area power cut. The panels will also reduce the electricity cost to the Centre. Building warrant being finalised.



### **Policies**

Making sure all the Association's policies are in place and fit for purpose - ongoing

### **Risk Assessments**

Making sure all the Association's risks are identified and assessed, particularly in relation to activities undertaken by volunteers – ongoing

### **Community Groups and Community Engagement**

Have met many if not all groups for an initial introduction. Issues with recruiting younger members and volunteer burnout common. I'm hoping that we can incorporate this into the large scale community engagement taking place in 2024. I am looking to use the Place Standards with a Net Zero and Climate Change Lens which will also tie in with the Council's Local Place Plans and Local Development Plans.

### **Youth Activity**

We will be running youth activities on a Friday evening starting 10 November 2023. Active Sports will be delivering and staffing sporting sessions. The Primary School have put out a survey over the holidays for me asking what other activities – along the arts and crafts line – that the youngsters want to do. I should get that info back in the next week or so and then will need to see who we can get to deliver what. Always difficult to get volunteers to work with young people so likely we look to start this in January to give ourselves a bit of time to draw up a programme. We will look to do something for High School students in the Spring.

### **Residential**

As part of my remit I need to increase the usage of the residential part of the Centre. This engagement has been done by email (many, many emails!) and by invitation to potential partners to have a look to see if we can work out activity weekends for them with eg Sea School and Outfit Moray or two centre weekends with the bunkhouse at Tomintoul etc.

### **Scarecrow Competition**

The Centre are entering the scarecrow competition – feel free to tack (or pin!) a strip of material onto her! 😊